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(58) Field of search

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(71) Applicant

Fiona Maria Veen,
3 Spode Place, Riverside,
Durban, Natal, Republic of
South Africa

(72) Inventor

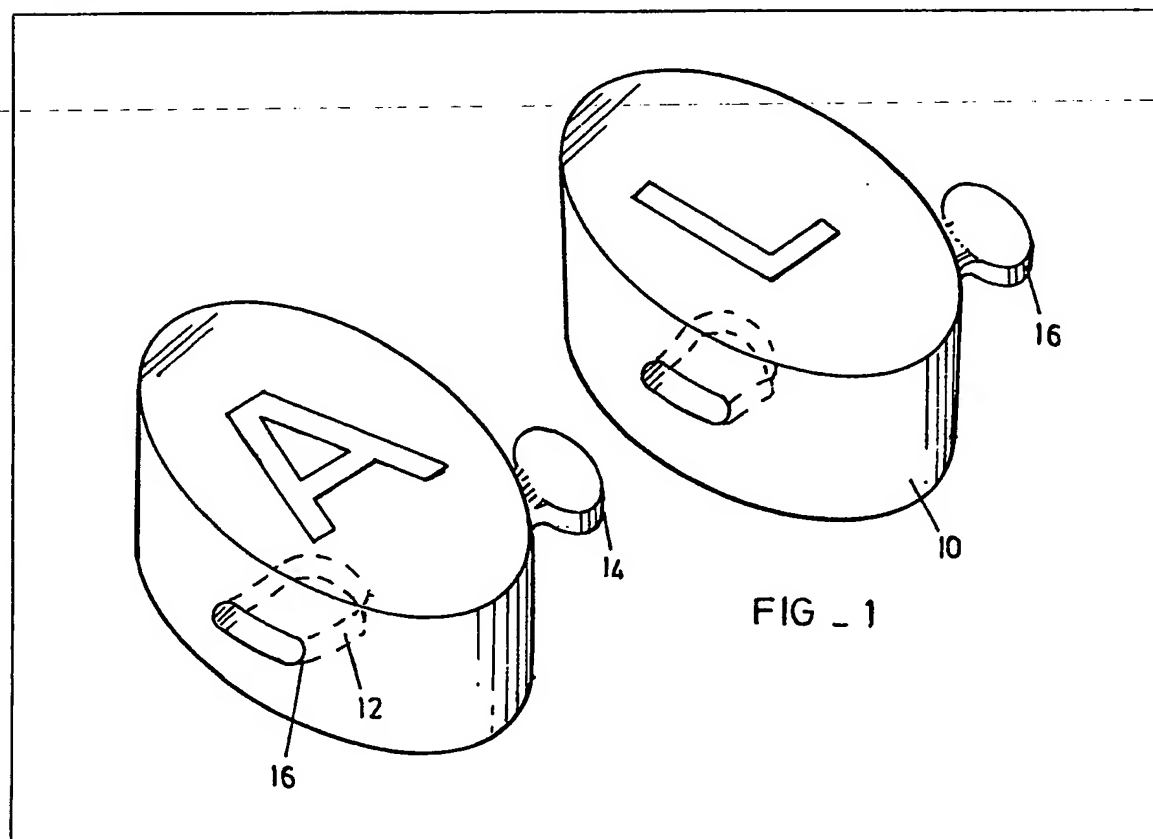
Fiona Maria Veen

(74) Agent and/or Address for
Service

Haseltine Lake and Co.,
Hazlitt House, 28
Southampton Buildings,
Chancery Lane, London
WC2A 1AT

(54) Necklaces, bracelets and like
ornamentation

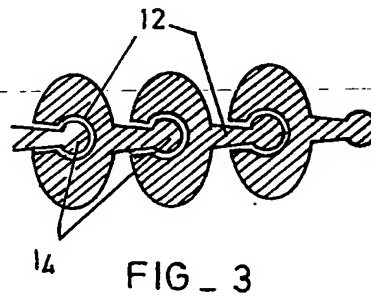
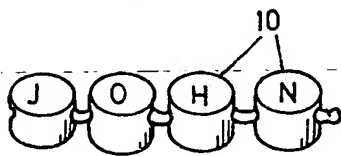
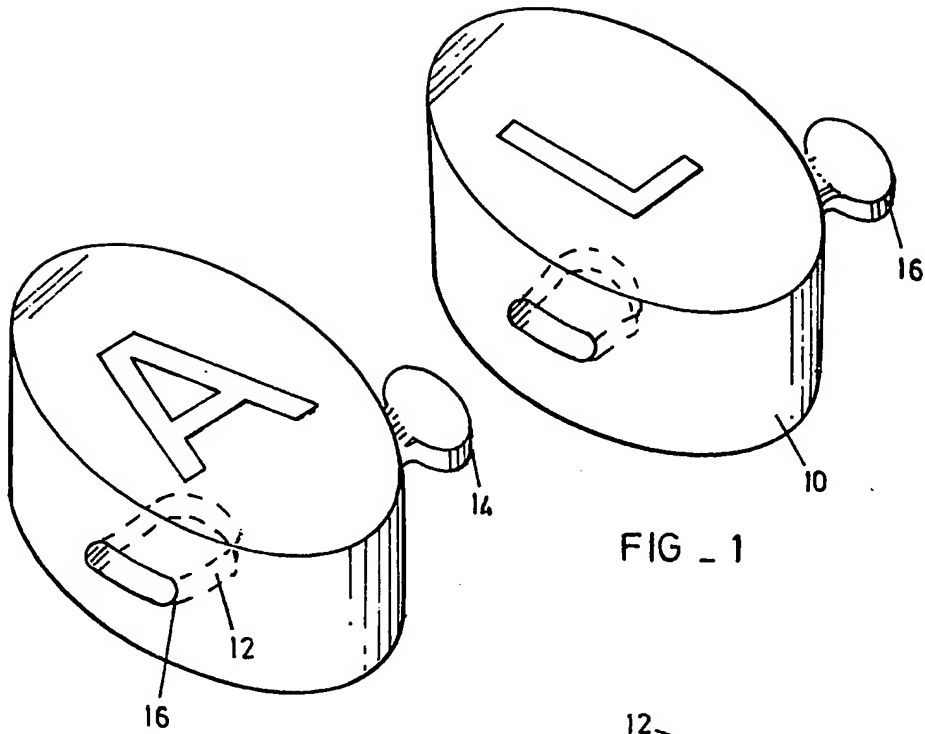
(57) A bead 10 has a blind bore 12 and a protuberance 14. The bore 12 has a zone constriction 16 formed midway along the length of the bore for receiving in frictional engagement a bulbous terminal 18 formed on the protuberance 14. The letters and numerals on the beads 10 may be formed during the moulding process. In use a plurality of beads 10 are assembled to constitute a necklace, bracelet or the like and arranged with the indicia to convey a message or sign.



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The drawings originally filed were informal and the print here reproduced is taken from a later filed formal copy.
This print takes account of replacement documents later filed to enable the application to comply with the formal requirements
of the Patents Rules 1982.



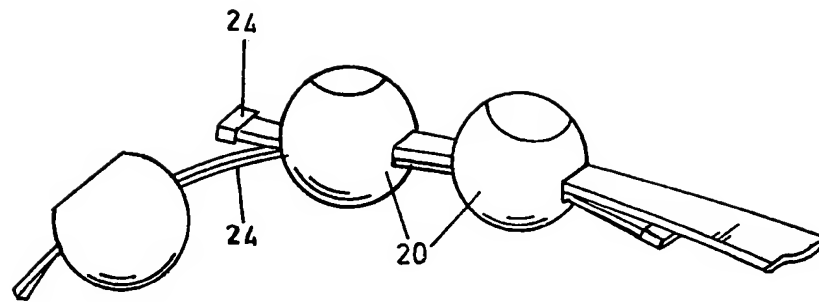


FIG. 5

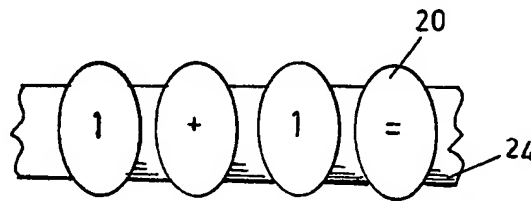


FIG. 5B

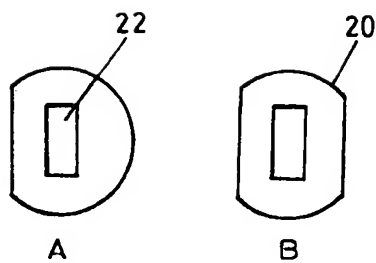


FIG. 6

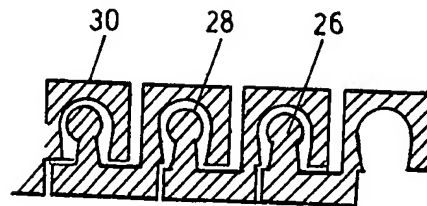


FIG. 7

SPECIFICATION

Necklaces, bracelets and like ornamentation

This invention relates to articles of adornment including necklaces, bracelets and the like and also to belts, ankle straps, hat bands and the like, and in particular to integers for assembling such articles.

The closest prior art known to the Applicant is known as the Poppet bead which comprises a bead having a male and female formation which are interengageable with complementary adjacent beads to form a string, the head of the male formation being larger than the opening of the female formation for a forced fit.

It will be appreciated that adjacent beads are relatively rotatable which is no drawback in relation to the prior art but which would be a drawback in relation to the present invention.

It is an object of the present invention to provide novel and attractive assembly which can be used as adornments.

According to the invention there is provided a plurality of interengageable integers, such integer including a formation adapted to receive in substantially non-rotational alignment a linking member for interconnecting like integers having one or more faces bearing indicia.

In one form of the invention the formation for receiving a linking member comprises a female formation adapted for receiving a complementary male formation. Preferably the female formation comprises a blind bore having a constricted zone located remote from the end wall of the bore and the male formation includes a bulbous terminal zone. The terminal zone of the male formation is preferably frictionally engageable through the constricted zone of the female formation.

In another form of the invention the formation for receiving the linking member comprises a core extending through the integer. Preferably the bore is non circular or out of round and adapted to receive a linking member in the form of a band, strap of the like.

The integers each have indicia in the form of a character or group of characters applied thereto, either by a moulding process or by heat pressing, printing or like process. Thus, the mould used for moulding the integers may include a letter, number sign (for example a plus, minus, divide or multiply sign), design or the like.

In order that the characters are fixed in axial relationship so that a name, message, sum or other representation may always face the same direction, the integers and/or the interengaging formations may include abutting surfaces which are not circular. Thus, the interengaging formation may be rectangular in cross section or the integers may include straight surfaces which abut when the integers are joined.

The integers may be chosen from juxtaposition of characters to form a name, a message, a sum or any other information of statement.

Embodiments of the invention are described by way of example with reference to the

65 accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a bead according to one embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a perspective view of an assembly of the beads of Figure 1;

70 Figures 3 and 4 are cross sections of further embodiments of the invention;

Figures 5 and 5b are perspective views of yet another embodiment of the invention;

75 Figures 6a and 6b are end views of beads according to a further embodiment of the invention; and

Figure 7 is cross section of another embodiment.

Referring to Figures 1 to 4 a bead 10 has a blind bore 12 and a protuberance 14. The bore 12 has a zone of constriction 16 formed midway along the length of the bore. The protuberance 14 has a bulbous terminal 18, the outside dimensions of which are slightly greater than the dimensions of the constriction 16 so that a force fit is formed when the terminal 18 and the constriction 16 are mated. As seen in the drawings the bore 12 and the protuberance 14 are flat hence rotation of the beads is prevented. The shape of the beads 10 may differ from the oval bodies seen in Figures 1 to 3 to the lozenge shape seen in Figure 4.

The beads 20 seen in Figures 5 and 6 have rectangular bores 22 which extend through the beads. The beads 20 are threaded along straps 24 to constitute a bracelet, necklace or the like article of adornment.

In Figure 7 the protuberance 26 and the bore 28 are disposed transversely to the principal axis of beads 30 hence there is no provision of rotation of the beads in the principal plane.

The numerals and letters may be formed at the time of moulding of the beads or formed in a separate operation, by engraving, tape with an adhesive surface or the like.

105 In use of the invention a plurality of beads are assembled in a chain fashion to constitute a necklace, bracelet or the like article of adornment. The beads may be used as name tags, media to convey a message or the like.

110 CLAIMS

1. A plurality of interengageable integers each integer including a formation adapted to receive in substantially non-rotational alignment a linking member for interconnecting like integers having one or more faces bearing indicia.

115 2. A plurality of interengageable integers according to claim 1 in which the formation for receiving a linking member comprises a female formation adapted for receiving a complementary male formation.

120 3. A plurality of interengageable integers according to claim 2 in which the female formation comprises a blind bore having a constricted zone located remote from the end wall of the bore.

125 4. A plurality of interengageable integers according to claim 2 or claim 3 in which the male formation includes a bulbous terminal zone.

5. A plurality of interengageable integers according to claim 3 or claim 4 in which the terminal zone of the male formation is frictionally engageable through the constricted zone of the female formation.
- 5 6. A plurality of interengageable integers according to claim 1 in which the formation for receiving the linking member in each integer comprises a bore extending through the integer.
- 10 7. A plurality of interengageable integers according to claim 6 in which the bore is non circular or out of round.
8. A plurality of interengageable integers according to claim 6 or 7 in which the linking member composes a strap, a band or the like.
- 15 9. A plurality of interengageable integers according to any one of claims 1 to 8 in which the indicia comprises characters fixed in any axial relationship to constitute in the assembled form of the integers a name, message or the like.
- 20 10. A plurality of interengageable integers according to claim 9 in which the characters comprise alphabets, numerals, signs, representations and the like.
- 25 11. A plurality of interengageable integers according to any one of claims 1 to 10 in which each integer comprises a bead or beadlike element.
- 30 12. A plurality of interengageable integers substantially as herein described with reference to any one of Figures 1 to 7 of the accompanying drawings.

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